under the supervision of the Director of Industries in different parts of the State, so that people might follow his example. Industrial Banks should also be established and worked by the Government.

Finally, the Member represented that many superfluous appointments in the P. W. D., the Police and other Departments might be abolished and that the saving thereby effected might be utilised for carrying out his suggestions.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

2. State Finance.

Mr. T. Kumara Pillai (Member, Kalkulam taluk) prefaced his remarks with submitting that, from the seventh session of the Assembly, the subject had been brought up and that that fact would show the importance of the subject matter of his representation. He then explained how both the receipts and disbursements had been increasing for the past 10 years. In view of the poor earning capacity of the people of Travancore and the annual income per head of the population in comparison with other countries, it was highly necessary that the income and expenditure should be so balanced as to leave a surplus to the credit of the State every year. He then reviewed the decline in the State surplus. According to the Member, the large increase in expenditure from the year 1083 was due to the departmental reorganizations carried out recently and to the resultant increase in salaries and establishments, notably in the Departments of Education and Public Works. The policy under which the opening of a Vernacular school had been made conditional on the people putting up the necessary buildings and maintaining them was a source of real hardship to the people which they could not bear. In regard to the P. W. D., the expenditure had to be curtailed on account of the present state of the finances. Still, the establishment charges had not been reduced but had, on the other hand, increased. Another recent feature of the public service was the increase in the number of officers on salaries out of proportion to their actual work. The manner in which the resources of the State were being husbanded at present was, no doubt, beneficial to the State. But it was necessary that the financial condition of the State should be improved. The only two ways of doing so were (1) increasing the revenue and (2) curtailing the expenditure.

As the ryots were already heavily taxed in respect of all sorts of produce from the land, there was no way of further tapping the sources of revenue from land. As Travancore is a purely agricultural country, the abundant raw materials should be utilized in the country, so as to enable the people to enjoy the finished products out of them. Ways and means to gain that object should be devised. The people had already had bitter experience of their dependence on other countries for their food. From an examination of the figures of export and import of paddy and rice for the past years from 1040 M. E., the Member submitted that, while Travancore was exporting paddy till 1044, it commenced to import its staple food from 1045. The import went on increasing year after year. The figures would clearly show that the necessity for importing the required quantity of food-crop for local consumption had been on the increase with the close of each year. It was high time that Government made an inquiry into the matter and took the needful remedial measures. If the import of paddy and rice was to be stopped and the State saved from its dependence on other countries for its food, a large area of fresh lands should be put under the plough. It was doubtful whether the required land was available for extensive cultivation. Failing this, intensive cultivation on a large scale was the only alternative, as suggested by the Director of Agriculture. There the problem was whether the people could carry it on. The Member was of opinion that they were unable, because they were not in a position to buy the scientific manures recommended by the Agricultural Department and at the same time provide themselves with water. A large number of irrigation tanks had become disused and silted up or had been sold in auction when the Kodayar Irrigation project came into actual operation. The result was that several paddy fields failed on account of scarcity of water which, besides bringing considerable hardship to several farmers, deprived Government of a good income in the shape of land tax. The Member recommended the appointment of an Agricultural Committee, to be composed of officials and non-officials, to suggest (1) the

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best improvements to be introduced by the Agricultural Department, (2) to remove the obstacles in the way of agricultural improvement, (3) to offer suggestions for the adoption of relief measures, and (4) to submit a report on the same to Government. On receipt of the Committee's report, the Government should decide on a definite course of action for future guidance and take such steps as would make it possible to completely stop the importation of food crops into the State from other countries. It was only then that the poverty of the country would cease.

The Government could increase its revenue only with the hearty and willing co-operation of the higher officials. For instance, the registry of waste lands was a substantial source of income and it was the duty of the responsible officers to so look after that business as not to affect the normal receipts from that source. At the same time waste lands ought not to be given away for the sole reason that the State Treasury was replenished thereby. The Member illustrated the latter point by explaining that, of late, a tendency had been noticed of vast areas being assigned to foreigners for purposes of exploitation, which was, no doubt, rendered possible because of the removal of a long-standing prohibition which stood in the way of foreigners obtaining lands in the State. That tendency was ruinous to the interests of the State and the people. He complained that palpable difference was noticeable in fixing acreage value and *thadivila* on *puduvals* applied for by officials and others in influence and position and on those applied for by ordinary ryots and that such difference in treatment affected Government revenue. If all lands were treated alike, a considerably larger amount of money would have gone into the State coffers with which some public works of great utility to the people could have been executed at a time when want of money was being urged as a reason for withholding many works. There were also instances in which poor ryots who had long possession and had made improvements had been ousted and their lands taken possession of by influential officials. After mentioning a few other irregularities in the disposal of *puduval* lands, the Member suggested that, if lands be registered in the names of the ryots at Rs. 5 per acre and if the registry be made subject to the condition that such lands should be brought under cultivation within a fixed period, there would be less of speculation and foreigners too would not go in for large areas of land.

The Forest Department was another source of income. At present the reserved forests comprised one-third of the area of the State which was more than the actual requirements of the department. An examination of the figures of the department from 1082 would show that the receipts rose because of the increased felling of trees and the raising of the tariff rates for timber. But the complaint of the people was that the real object in raising the tariff rates was to prevent them from purchasing timber and to sell it to outsiders to the great loss of Government. That was a matter for enquiry. The Member gave figures for the years 1082 — 1092 to prove his contention as regards Royal trees and jungle-wood. A statement of timber sold within the State and of that exported was given from which it was argued that, if the same price offered by the people had been realized for the timber exported, the forest revenue would have shown a larger increase. The Member submitted that enough attention was not being paid to improve the means of communications in the forests so as to enable larger quantities being stocked in depots and that invariably whenever an auction sale of timber was held in a depot the natives of the country were not being given a chance to purchase the timber from the depots. The next allegation was in regard to the treatment of Royal trees standing on Ayacut properties and it was contended that the ways of the department made Government a loser and involved the owners in great trouble. If Government would fix a separate tariff value on Royal trees felled from Ayacut properties, the people's requirements of timber could be greatly met. The Member then dealt with the coupe sale system by giving statistics as regards the quantity of timber sold and then compared the price of timber under different varieties with that realized in depots and urged that considerable loss had resulted from the transaction. He was of opinion that the coupe sale system, as it obtained at present, was highly prejudicial to the interests of forest conservancy and the revenue as well. The next item was minor produce. The Government had

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been careful so early as 1074 to enhance the revenue from that source, but the result so far had not been very satisfactory, though it was said in the G. O. issued in 1090 that a Special Officer would be appointed to thoroughly investigate the problem. It was high time to depute an expert to study the problem and find out the various uses to which the different varieties of minor produce could be put. He was sure that such a step would increase the revenue considerably and would greatly help the Ayurveda Department in securing the several drugs required.

The Member suggested the need for the appointment of a Financial Officer in the Huzur to examine the finances of the different departments and keep himself and the Government in close touch with their financial policy.

An undesirable feature of the finances of the State was excess of expenditure over income and the first step to be taken was, therefore, to curtail the disbursements. The chief item which contributed to the high expenditure was under salaries and allowances. Though from 1080 the charges under the above item for the Peishkars were on the increase, the work they had to do was decreasing in volume. Further, the Government had themselves to animadvert on the work of the Peishkars more than once. The Member detailed how unsatisfactory the work of the Peishkars and Tahsildars was in some of the branches of land revenue administration and also in their tours. If the people were kept informed of the circuit programme of the Peishkars, perhaps that would in some way mitigate the evils complained of. In view of the criticisms made by the Member, he proposed reduction being made from their salaries and of the establishments and the savings thus effected utilized in worsk of public utility.

In regard to the Public Works Department, the complaint was that there was no proper and effective supervision, that there was no sense of proportion in regard to the salaries of the various grades of the establishment and that there was decided room for reduction of the staff.

The Member then took a survey of the operations of the Sanitary Department, explained how more useful work was done in the earlier years at less cost, described how unsatisfactory the work of the department was in combating the spread of epidemic diseases and affording relief to the sufferers and how the department had failed to maintain rural sanitation and improve the public health of people in the villages. In these circumstances, the Member urged that the only course to be taken was to curtail the expenditure of the department or to place the department under a competent officer.

In conclusion, the Member spoke against the principle of granting personal allowances to officers and advocated substantial reduction under that head.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

II. MAIN HEADS OF REVENUE.

(I) Land Revenue.

3 Hardships caused to the poor people of the Nedumangad taluk by the levy of high rates of *tharavila*, *thadivila*, etc., on *puduval* lands.

Mr. M. Subramonia Pillai (Member, Nedumangad taluk) said that, at the last settlement, the *tharavila* and assessment for the *puduval* lands in the taluk were fixed at one rupee and one *fanam*, per acre respectively. The rates of *tharavila* and assessment were revised subsequently and at present the minimum rates of *tharavila* were Rs. 10 and Rs. 5 per acre and the minimum assessment was Re. 1 per acre. In actual registry much higher rates than the minima were fixed by the Revenue authorities and the rates so fixed were often lower or higher according as the applicants were rich or poor. In the re-survey of the taluk, several registered holdings were treated as *puduvals* and *vice versa* and the complaints of the ryots were unheeded. He requested that the matter be enquired into and the mistakes

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